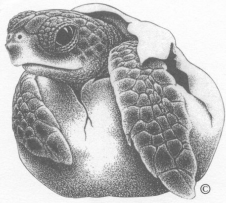


Share the Beach

JULY 18, 2001



Share the Beach

How to Contact us:

US Fish & Wildlife
Service

251-441-5181
1-866-SEA-TURTLE
Ext 32 or 31

Sea Turtle Facts

Kemp's Ridley
(*Lepidochelys
kempii*)

- Status:
Endangered
- The smallest of
all sea turtles
- Adults measure
up to 28" in
length and weigh
up to 100 lbs.
- Nests annually,
unlike other sea
turtles.
- Usually nests in
mass on one
beach in Mexico.

Dear Sea Turtle Volunteers,

We are now beginning the most labor-intensive part of the sea turtle program, **hatching!** Coordination will be even more important now to be sure all the nests are monitored. We have prepared nest sitting sign-up sheets for the team captains. It will be the captain's responsibility to ensure that all the time slots are filled. Don't hesitate to contact the floaters. We need everyone's help right now. Advance planning will help the hatching season flow smoothly. We are including a list of the 55th-day points for all the nests. This is the day nest monitoring should begin. Nests in this area usually hatch around the 60th day.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **July 18th, 6:30 pm at Gulf State Park Resort in the Boardroom.** Please mark this date on your calendar. This is our **hatchling training meeting**, which will take the place of our regularly scheduled biweekly meeting. It is especially important for everyone to attend this meeting if at all possible.

We are including extra nesting data sheets with this newsletter since they were requested at the last meeting. Extra forms will also be available at the Nature Center at Gulf State Park. If you haven't seen the training video from the first training session on May 5th, the video is available at the Nature Center and in our office in Daphne. It is silent footage of a Loggerhead and a Green nesting, and it compares crawl characteristics.

Nests

We have **31** nests as of Tuesday, July 10th. The new nests are as follows:

Orange Beach/Perdido Key:

6/21 Alabama Point

7/3 Alabama Point – marked by GSP

Gulf State Park:

7/1 Loggerhead

Laguna Key:

6/25 #2797 W. Beach

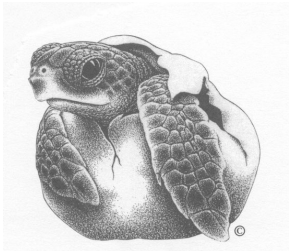
6/26 #3173

6/26 #1817

7/2 #2709

7/6 #2393

JULY 18, 2001



Share the Beach



Alpha – Orange Beach/Perdido Bay
Bravo – Romar Beach
Charlie – Gulf State Park
Delta – Gulf Shores Beach
Echo – Laguna Key & West Beach West
Foxtrot I & II – West Beach East
Gulf – Fort Morgan



Tidbits:

Loggerhead turtles have been sighted in the canal behind Orange Beach Marina. Talks with residents indicate that this is a normal occur-

West Beach:

6/22 #1239 W. Beach

7/7 #1453

We would appreciate it if the team leaders could send us a list of all of their nests with the laying date and new nest codes. This will allow us to double check our nest list and to better calculate ETA's for the hatchlings.

We are having a training session for a girl scout troop on **Saturday, July 14th**. If any of you have not been able to attend a training session on marking nests, you are welcome to come. The training will be held at 9:00 am in the Nature Center at Gulf State Park.

Thanks for your dedication to saving the turtles!

Happy Turtling,



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Daphne Field Office
P.O. Drawer 1190
Daphne, AL 36526